

Message Text

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SUBJ: PRESIDENT VELASCO'S ACCUSATIONS

REF: 1) SECTO 78, 2) MONTEVIDEO 3417

FOR THE SECRETARY FROM ASSISTANT SEC ROGERS

1. THERE ARE NEW ASPECTS ARISING FROM PRESIDENT VELASCO'S PULIC ACCUSATIONS AGAINST AMBASSADOR SIRACUSA AND APU COUNTRY DIRECTOR ORTIZ OF WHICH YOU SHOULD BE APPRISED:

2. AMBASSADOR SIRACUSA REPORTS A VICIOUS WIRE SERVICE (INTERPRESS) REPORT DATELINED MONTEVIDEO STATING THE VELASCO "REVELATIONS" ARE CAUSING GREAT INTEREST AND EVEN STUPOR IN POLITICAL AND PRESS CIRCLES. THE REPORT NOTES ONE OF THE EXPELLED "AGENTS" (SIRACUSA) IS CURRENTLY US AMBASSADOR IN URUGUAY AND THE OTHER (ORTIZ), RECENTLY AMERICAN CHARGE IN MONTEVIDEO, IS NOW COUNTRY DIRECTOR FOR ARGENTIN, URUGUAY AND
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PARAGUAY. THE REPORT SPECULATES THAT THE RECENT TRIP

TO MONTEVIDEO BY ORTIZ IS RELATED TO PLANS WHICH YOU HAVE DEVELOPED IN THE FORTY COMMITTEE TO BRING ABOUT A CHANGE IN GOVT IN URUGUAY AND FABRICATES OTHER SIMILAR ACCUSATIONS. THE ARTICLE ASSERTS THAT PRESIDENT BORDABERRY AND CERTAIN URUGUAYAN MILITARY SECTORS UNDOUBTEDLY ARE DISPLEASED BY THESE DEVELOPMENTS.

3. AS THERE IS A STRONG SMELL OF MOSCOW AGITPROP IN THE WIRE SERVICE REPORT MORE SUCH ARTICLES ARE LIKELY. FACT THAT THE URUGUAYAN GOVT HAS NOT PERMITTED PUBLICATION OF THE STORY REFLECTS ITS CONCERN.

4. WHILE IT IS TRUE ENOUGH THAT CONTINUED DISCUSSION IN LIMA WOULD INFLAME THE QUESTION OF PRESIDENT VELASCO'S VERACITY, THIS NEW MONTEVIDEO WIRE SERVICE STORY CARRIES IMPLICATIONS WHICH NEED TO BE CLEARED UP IN URUGUAY AT LEAST. I THINK WE SHOULD MOVE IN A NON-PUBLIC WAY TO PREVENT FURTHER DAMAGE IN URUGUAY TO OUR IMAGE AND THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE TWO OFFICERS MOST DIRECTLY RESPONSIBLE FOR US-URUGUAYAN RELATIONS. I RECOMMEND THESE STEPS:

A. THAT AMBASSADOR SIRACUSA NOW BE AUTHORIZED TO PROCEED WITH A WRITTEN OR ORAL DENIAL TO THE GOVT OF URUGUAY, THAT HE WAS NOR IS AN INTELLIGENCE AGENT AS OUTLINED IN PARA 1 AND 2 OF TOSEC 154. AMBASSADOR SIRACUSA HAS STAYED HIS HAND PENDING INSTRUCTIONS.

B. THAT WHEN THE NEW URUGUAYAN AMBASSADOR GENERAL PEREZ CALDAS CALLS ON THE ACTING SEC AND ME PROBABLY NEXT WEEK, WE MAKE A LOW-KEY BUT CATEGORICAL STATEMENT OF THE US POSITION ON THE ACCUSATIONS. THE NATURE OF THE NEW STORY IS SUCH THAT OUR FAILURE TO DO SO COULD WELL LEAD TO MISINTERPRETATIONS BY THE AMBASSADOR.

C. FINALLY, THAT WHEN PERUVIAN AMBASSADOR
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BERCKEMEYER RETURNS TO WASH EARLY NEXT WEEK FROM HIS HONEYMOON, I SPEAK TO HIM IN A WAY WHICH SOFTLY BUT FIRMLY REINFORCES AMBASSADOR DEAN'S PRIVATE COMMENTS TO THE FOREIGN OFFICE THAT NEITHER ORTIZ NOR SIRACUSA HAD ANY CONNECTION WITH CIA. AMB BERCKEMEYER IS FULLY FAMILIAR WITH THE BASELESS CHARACTER OF THE CHARGES MADE FIVE YEARS AGO, AND IN FACT SYMPATHIZED WITH STRONG STAND WE TOOK THEN.

EVEN IN HIS ABSENCE, THE PERUVIAN EMBASSY HAS GIVEN
INDICATIONS WITHIN THE LAST FEW DAYS OF WANTING TO
BE HELPFUL. INGERSOLL

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